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**\*\*\* Extension of the Deadline \*\*\***

**Please note that the deadline for comments on the WG-OE papers has now been extended to 30 April 2021.**

**Please submit your comments in English, French or Spanish to:  
[phelpse@state.gov](mailto:phelpse@state.gov) and copied to [secretariat@iwc.int](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int)**

Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and  
Members of the Scientific Committee  
**IWC.ALL.389**

**Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (WG-OE) –  
Revised draft documents for review by 16 April 2021**

As reflected in the report of The Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (WG-OE) Workshop (IWC.ALL.355), and in Circular IWC.ALL.365, the WGOE has revised the four papers outlining proposals for IWC68 as the next step in the governance review process. The revised drafts of the four papers are now available for review in English [here](#). The French and Spanish translations of these papers will be available shortly at the same link.

Contained in three separate documents (papers 1&2 are combined), these papers further develop the potential proposals for the Commission to consider at IWC68 and reflect the comments received during the last review period.

The WG-OE Co-Chairs wish to ensure that any reform of the Commission and its procedures are reflective of all members of the Commission by developing proposals which capture a broad range of views. Therefore, the WG-OE is seeking input on the revised draft papers circulated with this letter.

Through the kindness of voluntary contributions, we will be able to translate these four draft papers into Spanish and French, and we note that comments are welcome in all three languages in order to facilitate review and comment.

**We are requesting feedback and comments on the four papers by 16 April 2021.** As mentioned above, this consultation process is the critical next step in ensuring the proposals are representative of the views of the Commission.

The WG-OE will consider all comments, revise the documents as appropriate and submit final papers to the Secretariat on 1 July 2021. These will be prepared for submitting to the Commission in advance of the 60 day deadline for IWC68.). There will be a follow-up, virtual meeting on these papers in May/June 2021 following the Scientific Committee virtual meeting in April/May 2021. We note that simultaneous translation will be available for this virtual meeting of the WG-OE and encourage all those who are interested to participate in this virtual meeting. The WG-OE reminds Commissioners that the group remains open to member participation. Please contact the Secretariat for additional information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Phelps'.

Lisa Phelps, USA  
(WGOE Co-Chair)

*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*